

by Raymond Keene

THE chess events at the second Mind Sports Olympiad held at the Novotel in West London at the end of August attracted three British grandmasters: Stuart Conquest, former British champion James Plaskett and Aaron Summerscale, who captured the gold, silver and bronze medals respectively. An interesting entry came from the entire Ukrainian Ladies team, who collected several medals.

One of the most attractive games was played by *Times* reader Alexander Baron, who was kind enough to send me the following. White's opening play is overambitious and Black deftly demonstrates the continuing truth that unsupported wing activity is best refuted by a central counter-punch. The real pleasure to be obtained from this game, though, is Black's sparkling conclusion with sacrifice of bishop and queen to force checkmate.

White: Yasser Tello; Black: Alexander Baron
Mind Sports Olympiad 1998
Sicilian Defence

1 e4 c5 2 Nc3 Nc6
 3 Nf3 d6

There are only two ways for Black to take advantage of White's sequence and prevent d4. One is 3... e5 and the other is 3... Nd4. But it is better to stay in the main lines.

4 d4 cxd4 5 Nxd4 Nf6
 6 Be4

A direct method of attack favoured both by Bobby Fischer in his day and also by Nigel Short.

6 ... e6 7 f4 Be7
 8 f5

White is imbued with aggression but safe and sound is 8 Be3.

8 ... d5

The traditional counter-thrust to a mistimed wing attack is to react in the centre.

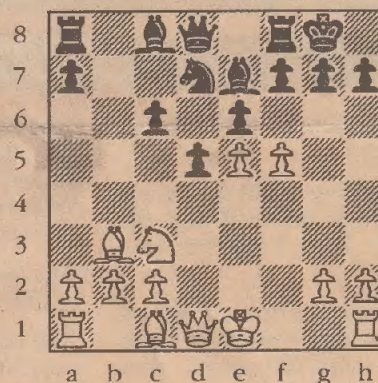
9 Bb3

White still dreams of blasting his way through to the black king. Instead, the moment had come to cut his losses with 9 exd5 exd5 10 Bb5.

9 ... 0-0 10 Nxc6 bxc6
 11 e5

Utterly consistent, but Black is well able to weather the storm.

11 ... Nd7



What White now tries has a hint of desperation although it could easily prove dangerous.

12 f6 gxf6

If now 13 Bh6 Nxe5 14 Bxf8 Bxf8 with more than adequate compensation for the loss of the exchange. This, though, was probably White's best chance.

13 exf6 Bxf6 14 0-0 Kh8
 15 Qc2

The wrong square. White should hurl his forces into a direct attack by means of 15 Qh5.

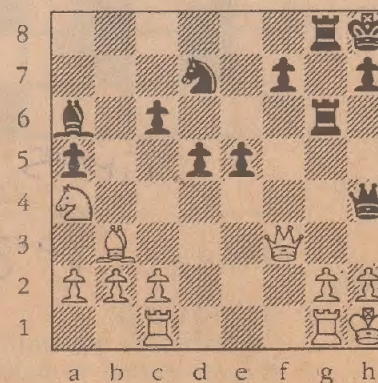
15 ... a5 16 Qf3 Ba6
 17 Rd1 Rg8 18 Bf4 e5
 19 Bg3

White has run out of steam.

19 ... Qe7 20 Na4

White had no choice but to sacrifice with 20 Bxd5 cxd5 21 Nxd5.

20 ... Rg6 21 Racl Rag8
 22 Kh1 Bh4
 23 Bxh4 Qxh4 24 Rgl



Black's combination to force checkmate is both efficient and beautiful.

24 ... Be2
 25 Qxe2 Qxh2+
 26 Kxh2 Rh6+ White resigns